



E: Remarks:

The present amendment has been prepared with the intent of complying with and be in accordance with the latest instructions on preparing amendments issued by the U.S. Patent And Trademark Office dated 1/31/03 which waives the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121(a), (b), (c) and (d).

The amendment is believed to be in accordance with the examiner's suggestions. The claims have been amended to clarify the on-chip diagnostic process claimed. The applicants point out that the examiner has already found the limitation of N+1 in claim 1 was not in the art and that process is elaborated with this amendment. The references only show apparatus incapable of on chip diagnosis of fault, and do not show any on chip apparatus or process for handling multiple bit failure detection. They do not show the skipping process for reuse of chip circuitry, as the examiner has noted. The examiners careful suggestions for claim language improvement have been accommodated. The claims should now be in accordance with the examiner's suggestion.

The changes which were not made in the specification as to punctuation, etc., remain because they are correct, precise, exactly set out commas and all, conforming to G&C Merriam Co's Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, 1956 Edition rules at page 1149 regarding punctuation of a series of adjectives for a noun.

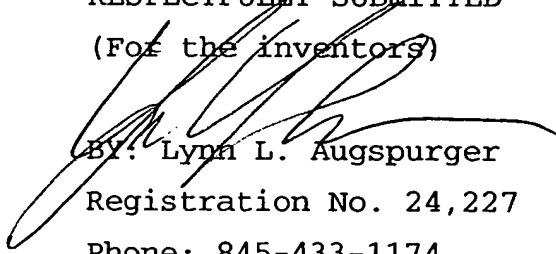
However, all other suggestions of the Examiner are appreciated and have been adopted.



It is respectfully submitted that the application should be in final condition for allowance which is respectfully requested.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

(For the inventors)



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